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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/664,712	09/17/2003	Yongchi Tian	SAR 14879	4392

7590 06/30/2004
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EXAMINER

KOSLOW, CAROL M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1755

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

511

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/664,712	TIAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	C. Melissa Koslow	1755	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 September 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/17/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

Applicant's claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) is acknowledged. However, the provisional application upon which priority is claimed fails to provide adequate support under 35 U.S.C. 112 for claims 1-18 of this application.

There is no teaching of the phosphor of claims 1-5 and 12-18 in the provisional application. The provisional application teaches forming a YAG:Ce phosphor slurry comprising making a solution of polyvinyl alcohol, heating the solution at 85°C, cooling the mixture, adding the phosphor and shaking it to form a uniform slurry. This process is different from that of claims 6-11 which does not teach a heating step.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: Reference number F in figure 3.

The drawings are objected to because figures 4A and 4B are too dark and the peaks of the garnet and the barium aluminate in X-ray diffraction pattern of figure 2 are not labeled.

Corrected drawing sheets are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR

Art Unit: 1755

1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: It is unclear if the percentage range 0.01-1% for the formula on page 3 is based on weight or moles. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 4 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim, or amend the claim to place the claim in proper dependent form.

The limitation in this claim are already found in claim 1. Thus claim 4 does not further limit claim 1.

Claims 1, 2 and 5-18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The phosphor of claims 1, 2, 5 and 12-18 is not taught in the specification. The specification teaches a garnet phosphor having the formula $\text{Re}_3(\text{Al}_{1-s}\text{Ga}_s)_5\text{O}_{12}:\text{Ce}:\text{xMAl}_2\text{O}_4$, where s is 0-1, Re is Y, Gd, Sm, Lu or Yb, M is an alkali or alkaline earth metal and x is 0.01-1%. The taught range does not support the claimed x range of 0.01-0.3. This discrepancy needs to be corrected.

Art Unit: 1755

The process of claims 6-11 is not taught in the specification. Pages 11 and 12 of the specification teaches forming a YAG:Ce phosphor slurry comprising making a solution of polyvinyl alcohol, heating the solution at 85°C, cooling the mixture, adding the phosphor and shaking it to form a uniform slurry. Nowhere in the specification is the process of the claim 6 taught in the specification, where the room temperature solution of polymer or polymerizable material in a dispersion liquid is cooled.

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is unclear how the x value is determined or what it is based on, the weight of the aluminate in the phosphor or the molar amount in the phosphor. The x range in claim 3 is broader in scope than the range in claim 1. The range in claim 3 is about 0.0001 to about 0.01, while the range in claim 1 is 0.01-0.3. In addition it is unclear what the percentages in claim 3 are based on, weight or molar.

Claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

There is no teaching or suggestion in the cited art of record of a phosphor having the claimed formula.

U.S. patent 4,024,070 is cited as of interest since it teaches using alkali metal fluorides as a flux to produce cerium activated rare earth aluminate garnets. The process in the reference with

Art Unit: 1755

respect to the state of the precursors is different than that disclosed by applicants. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art cannot say the process of the reference produces the claimed phosphor.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melissa Koslow whose telephone number is (571) 272-1371. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Bell, can be reached at (571) 272-1362.

The fax number for all official communications is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

cmk
June 28, 2004


C. Melissa Koslow
Primary Examiner
Tech. Center 1700